



THE ATHEISTIC TIDE.

The Threatened Destruction of the Simple Faith of the Fathers by the Vain Deceits of Modern Philosophers—An Attack Christians Must Meet.

Atlanta Constitution.

New York, January 26.

The dread sign of the times, as I see it, is the growing skepticism in the leading circles of thought and action throughout the country—a swelling tide of atheism and unbelief that has already swept over many of the outposts of religion.

I am not alarmed by the fact that Henry Ward Beecher, who has since swung beyond the limit of orthodoxy, any more than I am reassured by the fact that Stephen H. Tyng has, by indorsing the miracles at Lourde, swung back into the stronghold of superstition.

I have noted, in the first place, in the literary writers—novelists, scientists and essayists—are arraying themselves in great force either openly on the side of skepticism, or are treating religious sentiment with a readiness of touch and lack of reverence that is hardly less dangerous.

I am not misled by the eloquence of Ingersoll nor the noisy blasphemy of his imitators. I was with five journalists and I found that every one of them were skeptics, two of them in the most emphatic sense.

In a sitting circle with eight passengers, average people, I found that three were confirmed atheists, three were doubtful about it, and two were old-fashioned Christians.

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ANDERSON, S. C., THURSDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 10, 1881.

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A SCENE IN PARLIAMENT.

Despotic Powers to be Obtained by England Over Ireland in a Despotism.

LONDON, February 9, 1881.

In the House of Commons last night William Henry Smith, conservative, and formerly first Lord Admiralty, rose to a question of order, and said that Mr. Parnell was one of the eleven members who had been guilty of a gross insult to the House.

Section 2 of the bill makes the rather queer provision that no decoration other than that accepted under the provisions of this law, heretofore accepted, or which may hereafter be accepted, shall be publicly shown or exposed upon the person of the officer receiving the same.

Section 3 says: "That hereafter any present, decoration, or other thing, which shall be conferred or presented by any foreign government to any officer of the United States, civil, naval or military, shall be tendered through the Department of State, and not to any individual in person."

The beneficiaries under this Act will be Joseph Irish, of the United States Marines, who is authorized to accept from the Spanish government the Grand Cross of Naval Merit of the second class, for services rendered the officers and crew of the Spanish war vessel Pizarro.

Lieutenant Benjamin H. Buckingham, of the Navy, to accept from the President of the French Republic the Cross of the Legion of Honor, in appreciation of services in connection with the Exposition of 1878 at Paris.

General Francis A. Walker to accept the decoration of Knight Commander of the Swedish Order of Wasa, tendered him by the government of Sweden, and that of the Order of the Crown of the King of Italy, tendered to him by the government of Italy.

Lieutenant John J. Almy to accept a decoration of the Order of Kamahara of the King of Hawaii, tendered to him by the King of the Hawaiian Islands as a evidence of his appreciation of that officer.

Lieutenant Z. L. Tanner, of the navy, late commanding the Pacific mail steamer City of Peking, to accept from the Japanese government a pair of flower vases and a sword, in acknowledgment of his services in rescuing four Japanese seamen from a wreck on the Pacific Ocean on the 19th of February, 1877.

Lieutenant Francis V. Greene, of the army, to accept from the Emperor of Russia a decoration of the third class of the order of Saint Anne, for bravery under fire during the capture of the island of Egleva, September 11, 1877; also, a decoration of the fourth class of the order of Saint Vladimir, for bravery under fire during the passage of the Balkans, December 25 to 21, 1877, and at the battle of Philippopolis, January 15 to 17, 1878, also the campaign medal conferred upon all persons who served in the campaign.

William J. Wilson, assistant surgeon in the United States army, to accept from the Khedive of Egypt a decoration of the order of Njideh, for gallantry in battle in the action near Gura, Abyssinia, March 7, 1876.

Commodore J. W. A. Nicholson, to accept from the Spanish government the Grand Cross of Naval Merit of the second class, as a mark of appreciation for the services rendered to the officers and crew of the wrecked war ship Pizarro.—National Republican.

HOW SHE GOT INTO THE DEPARTMENT.—Washington, January 25.—One bright morning last Spring the Hon. John Sherman was sitting in his office when suddenly a bright haired, pretty girl dashed into his presence. She was apparently 16, and had about her an air of business which even the cool gaze of the Ohio statesman could not transmute into maidenly light or flurry.

"What kind of a place do you want?" "I don't care what it is, but I must have a place to work in." Mr. Sherman assured her that there were ten applicants for every one place, and there was very little chance.

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THE WONDERFUL SOUTH CAROLINA CLAY BEDS.

especially in connection with straw, wood and jute stalk, and its use in paper is general in Europe as well as in America.

A SUCCESSFUL ENTERPRISE, AND WHY. Until 1868 little had been done to utilize the South Carolina clays outside the State.

Mr. McNamee began with the purchase of forty acres in 1868. He continued his purchases from year to year, and now in 1880 his firm holds nearly eighteen hundred acres of clay lands around Kaolin, S. C.

LOCATION OF THE DEPOSITS. The locality of these deposits is in general in Aiken County, in the vicinity of Bates on the South Carolina Railroad, and about ten miles west of Aiken, the well-known winter resort.

THE MENNONITE EMIGRANTS FROM RUSSIA.—The efforts of Major Alexander Melchers to bring to this State—who the Mennonites are.

CHARLESTON NEWS AND COURIER. For a number of years Major Alexander Melchers of the city, has devoted a great deal of attention to the subject of foreign immigration, and has done much to encourage the influx of new emigrants into South Carolina.

ANTICIPATIONS. The magnitude of the deposit appropriately gave the name Kaolin to the village more than twenty years ago, and here, at about that time, the "Southern Porcelain Manufacturing Company" was organized, and extensive and costly works were built by it for the manufacture of a general line of pottery ware from the clay here found.

KAOLIN VILLAGE, as stated, is on high land—it is built along the summit ridge. It is beneath the surface of this high ridge, some twenty feet, that the clay deposits are located.

CHARACTER OF THE EARTH COVERING. The land, though not barren, is not valuable for agricultural purposes; the soil is light and sandy, yet cotton and corn are to some extent grown upon it.

MANNER OF WORKING THE BEDS. First of all the surface of the clay is scraped and swept to clear it of any refuse clay and all remains of the sand.

THE RAILROADS OFFERED FREE TRANSPORTATION FROM CHICAGO TO THE WEST, and the chances were all against us. But the railroad that the Emperor of Russia offered to the Mennonite immigrants to settle in this State.

THE NORTH CAROLINA LEGISLATURE will probably order a special election for May or August to find out the popular sentiment on the question of prohibition.

THE CAMPERDOWN MILLS, near Greenville, are unable to fill their orders with the present force employed, and the superintendent is now forced to run all night as well as all day.

THE OHIO STATE LOCAL OPTION CONVENTION has passed resolutions asking the Legislature to pass a local option anti-liquor law, and claims that, inasmuch as woman is the greatest sufferer from the liquor traffic, she ought to be allowed to vote on this question.

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GENERAL NEWS SUMMARY.

Georgia 7 per cent. bonds recently sold for 91.25.

Strawberries are selling in New York for six dollars a quart.

A coal company in Colorado struck oil a few days ago at a depth of 1,145 feet.

Butler county, Pa., pays over one thousand dollars a year bounty on fox scalps.

A new telegraph company with \$1,000,000 capital has been organized in Chicago.

New York had 2,389 new buildings begun in 1880, at an estimated cost of \$23,938,000.

The national debt of England is held by 1,000,000 people; that of France by about 4,000,000.

The colored Republicans of Augusta, Ga., have endorsed Senator Bruce for a place in Gen. Garfield's Cabinet.

The city council of Jefferson, La., has placed the license for selling liquor at one thousand dollars per annum.

N. L. Webb of Georgetown, S. C., says it will require \$500,000,000 to pay all claims under the arrears of the pension law of 1875.

It is estimated that at least twenty thousand dollars worth of spirituous liquors were sold at Greenwood, Abbeville county, last year.

Two cats which had been dressed to a restaurant kept in New York for rabbits, and got twenty-five cents a piece for them.

Oscar A. Rice, late deputy collector of internal revenue at Baton Rouge, has been committed to prison on a charge of embezzlement, in default of \$10,000 bail.

A. C. H. of Charleston, S. C., has been convicted of fraudulent voting and sentenced to two months' imprisonment, and to pay a fine of one hundred dollars.

Senator Dennis, of Maryland, has a twelve acre terrapin pond in which he raises terrapins for market. He has sold many as well as thousands.

They bring from ten to fourteen dollars a dozen.

In the Senate of the North Carolina Legislature, a bill has been introduced proposing an amendment to the constitution to the effect that after 1895 no one can be made a senator or representative without having been a citizen of the State for at least seven years.

A young man named James Gaddis, of Chattanooga, Tenn., killed his mother recently. They had been drinking together and quarrelled, when he struck her with a poker, which caused her death in a few minutes.

Some fifty emigrants en route to the West passed through Atlanta last week. Among them was a lady who was said to be the mother of twenty-nine children. She called the roll at every station to see that none were missing.

Benjamin Schnell and Hattie Gertrude Posey were married recently by a justice of the peace at Seneca City. The girl is only eight years old, and was married with the consent of her mother, who witnessed the ceremony.

A negro named Bob Hennegan was found dead in a creek in Mecklenburg county, N. C., his head beat into a jelly and a chain around his neck. Four negroes have been committed to jail charged with the murder.

Since the commencement of the season, nearly three millions of tons of ice have been hauled in the Hudson river, at an expense not exceeding twenty-five cents per ton. The ice will average twelve inches in thickness.

Hon. A. S. Merrimon, in a recent address at Seneca City, S. C., in the presence of the State Legislature, has been practicing law for twenty-eight years, and nine-tenths of the cases in his practice have been brought on by liquor.

Gerald Paget, fourth son of Lord Alfred Paget, and his wife have been hunting in Wyoming and Montana. One night they slept in an open tent with the thermometer 29 degrees below zero and the wolves howling about them.

It is stated that Prof. O. C. Hill, principal of the normal school at Oregon Hall, Colo., will be private secretary to President Garfield. Prof. Hill was one of the faculty at Hiram College, Ohio, when General Garfield was president of that institution.

The Ohio State Local Option Convention has passed resolutions asking the Legislature to pass a local option anti-liquor law, and claims that, inasmuch as woman is the greatest sufferer from the liquor traffic, she ought to be allowed to vote on this question.

A Company with \$6,000,000 capital has been organized in Chicago, for the purpose of leasing the Cincinnati Southern Railroad. If this is effected, it is proposed to form a combination with the Kentucky Central, Chesapeake and Ohio and the Erlanger lines from Chattanooga.

The Camperdown Mills, near Greenville, are unable to fill their orders with the present force employed, and the superintendent is now forced to run all night as well as all day.

He has issued circulars calling for two hundred and fifty additional operatives to whom good wages and steady work is promised.

The North Carolina Legislature will probably order a special election for May or August to find out the popular sentiment on the question of prohibition.

If the people are in favor of prohibition the Governor will be requested to call an extra session of the Legislature to pass at once an unqualified prohibitory law.

St. Louis gamblers propose to evade State laws next spring by fitting out a boat on the Mississippi River, with a large main cabin for keno and smaller rooms for roulette and hazard.

Each passenger is to pay \$1 fare, and three-fourths of the fare are to constitute "puts" for the game, the bank deducting the usual commission.

The annual report of the commissioners of emigration for the year 1880 was completed on the 25th. The total number of passengers arriving at Castle Garden was 372,869.

Of this number, 104,204 came from Germany, 66,339 from England, and 10,190 from Italy. The report recommends that Congress make such laws as may be required touching immigration.

Virginia is to have a civil rights case to a public school. At Lynchburg a white girl was dismissed from school because she lived with a negro family and had a reputation somewhat doubtful. All the other scholars quit when she entered. So it was a necessity to turn her off or shut up shop. Suit has been brought against the District School Board at Lynchburg.

General Garfield in a speech in the House of Representatives in 1874, said: "The divorce between Church and State ought to be absolute. It ought to be so for all nations of the world, for wherever, in any State or in the nation, should be exempt from equal taxation; for if you exempt the property of any church organization, to that extent you impose a church tax upon the whole community."

Major Melchers is also trying to secure a location in the upper part of Georgia for the settlement of the Mennonites, who will engage in the cultivation of the vine. Their vineyards in Wurtemberg have been destroyed by the fly, and they want to settle in this State, the upper portion of which is so well adapted in soil and climate to the growth of the grape.

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TALE OF A MERMAID.

An incident was related the other day by an old sea captain, who swore to its authenticity in the most vehement manner.

He was speaking of the famous "Mermaid" which occurred some years ago in the Azores, and other neighboring islands, and in Madeira also, and of the straits to which the inhabitants were reduced for food.

"You see," said he, "I was laying off Funchal with a cargo of hardware—vine shears, cultivators and such like, and was bound for the harbor of New York. Well, our provisions got out, and I calculated to lay in a supply at Funchal, but there wasn't none there."

"No, none. The cattle had all died, consequently there wasn't no beef; sheep had all perished, and there wasn't no mutton; the hogs all died, and there wasn't no pork; chickens all eaten up by foxes, so there wasn't no fowls."

"That's rather a dismal picture," was our reply; "how did the people procure food?"

"Food, well, they kind o' lived on yams and rootin' stole mules—the only thing that didn't die—and eat them."

"How about fish—couldn't they take fish as usual?"

"Nary fish; the fish all went out o' them ar' latitudes. There wasn't sharks left, let alone anything worth catchin'."

"Why, that was strange."

"Yes, the only thing left in the harbor was mermaids, and they were nigh unto starvation, too."

"The what?" we asked in surprise.

"The mermaids? Can't you hear?" yelled the captain, angry at even a hint of skepticism.

"What do you believe there are such creatures as mermaids?"

"Do I believe it? No, I don't believe it; I know it! I reckon, stranger, I've seen a dozen o' em at a time, a 'tumble' in the surf like a lot of monkeys among the riggin'."

"Indeed! and what do they feed upon?"

"Well, I reckon, principally fish. I've seen 'em catch herrin', stranger, and 'em up raw, as fast as a Dutch baby hen eat pickles."

"How did they get along at the time you speak of?" we inquired, endeavoring to assume an appearance of credulity.

"You said the fish had entirely disappeared."

"That's right, and the poor mermaids suffered badly. Why one night, as I was comin' down from the town to the quay where the brig's boat was tied up, I see a fire burning on the beach. I reckoned first it was a lot of drunken sailors makin' punch. Well, I bore up towards it, and what d'ye think it was?"

"Of course we gave it up."

"Well, I'll tell you what, then you can see the reason for it. There was a lot of fish deniers and gathered the following facts regarding the mule trade the present season:

The mule season has fairly begun but is far from being as active as the season was last year. There are several hundred mules in the market, and commenced to get ready for their ploughing. The cold weather prevailing has set them back, and besides they bought largely last year and will not need so many this year.

The demand from the East and North is not very large. Speculators made a good deal of money the first three months of the year 1880, and are now largely out of the market.

All their ventures they made money, prices kept on advancing and the demand was very urgent, and this made speculators somewhat reckless.

Last summer they began buying and contracting for January and February 1881, and paid pretty good prices. Now country shippers and speculators find that their anticipations are not being realized, and from the present outlook it is not unlikely that they will lose money.

One prominent mule shipper, who has over a thousand head corralled up in an interior county in Missouri, remarked to the reporter: "I have a large bunch, and if anybody will pay me first cost and the feed, I will let him have the mules and take off \$3,000 besides, and I know others who will take off a percentage if they can get back their money only."

Mr. William P. Crosswhite, a well known feeder, was also interviewed by the reporter, and asked why he had the receipts fallen off. The total receipts of horses and mules from January 1 to the 19th, inclusive, were only 2,612 head, while for the corresponding nineteen days in 1880 the receipts were 6,618 head, or nearly three times as many as in 1881.

"Well, you demand for mules is small, and prices fluctuating and not very high at that, and thus keep back the supply. Were the demand as large as last January, the receipts would be as liberal."

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